

# Effect of retinoids on proliferation and cytotoxicity of lymphokine-activated killer cells against human bladder cancer cells in vitro

# lymphokine-activated killer cell human bladder cancer cells in

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**KEY WORDS** retinoids; vitamin A; lymphokine-activated killer cells; IL-2; immunologic cytotoxicity; cultured tumor cells; bladder cancer

YET there are few reports about the effect of retinoids on anti-tumor immunity in human. The immunologic aberrations induced by tumors in mice with implanted melanoma were diminished by tretinoin indicating its potential role in cancer immunotherapy<sup>(5-8)</sup>.

These results by using lymphokine-activated killer (LAK) cells in clinical practice were unsatisfactory<sup>(9)</sup> and it was considered that retinoids might be an adjuvant with an immunostimulatory effect. This study was to investigate the effect of Tre or retinol (Ret) in the generation of LAK cells in patients with bladder cancer and the cytotoxicity of LAK cells against bladder cancer cells.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Reagents** Tre and Ret were made by Fluka (Switzerland). RPMI 1640 medium was obtained from Gibco. 3-(4-Dimethylamino)azobenzene-4-carboxylic acid (DMAC) and L-glutamine were obtained from Sigma. Recombinant interleukin-2 (IL-2) was made by Genzyme Institute of Biologic Products (Ministry of Public Health).

**Cultivation of LAK cells** Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) obtained from 19 patients with pathologically diagnosed transitional cell carcinoma of bladder were isolated by Ficoll-paque (Shanghai Chemical Reagents Ltd) density-gradient centrifugation. Isolated cells were repeatedly washed 3 times with RPMI 1640 medium. The PBMC ( $1 \times 10^6$  cells  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>) were suspended in complete medium (CM) consisting of RPMI 1640, benzylpenicillin 100 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>, streptomycin 100 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>, gentamicin 50 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>, L-glutamine 2 mmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>, sodium hypoxanthine 1 mmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup> and 15% heat-inactivated calf serum (CS). The cells were allowed to settle in 25 cm<sup>2</sup> tissue culture flasks at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 2 h. Nonadherent PBMC ( $2 \times 10^6$  cells  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>) were further cultivated in CM supplemented with IL-2 100 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup> for 96 h.

**LAK cell proliferation** Nonadherent PBMC ( $15 \times 10^5$  cells  $\cdot$  well<sup>-1</sup>) were replated into 96-well plates with IL-2 100 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>.

**AIM:** To study the effect of tretinoin (Tre) or retinol (Ret) on the proliferation of lymphokine-activated killer (LAK) cells in patients with transitional cell carcinoma of bladder.

**METHODS:** LAK cell proliferation was assayed in the presence of either Tre or Ret by the <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine (MTC) assay. Hunan transitional bladder cancer cell lines BIU-87 or bladder tumor cells (BTC) from patients with bladder cancer were used as target cells and cytotoxicity of LAK cells was determined by the <sup>51</sup>Cr release assay. **RESULTS:** The proliferation of LAK cells induced by interleukin-2 (IL-2) was stimulated by Tre or Ret (10-100 nmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>) in a dose-dependent manner.

Cytotoxicity of LAK cells against BIU-87 or BTC was enhanced by pretreatment of LAK cells with Tre or Ret 10-100 nmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>. **CONCLUSION:** Tre or Ret enhances proliferation and cytotoxicity of LAK cells from patients with bladder cancer. Retinoids have potential in adoptive immunotherapy of bladder cancer.

Individuals with low serum retinoid levels or low dietary intake of retinoids have an increased risk of bladder cancer and retinoids prevent the emergence of bladder cancer. In carcinogen-treated mice, retinoids inhibit proliferation, induce differentiation or apoptosis and regulate gene expression in various tissues.

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Well plates were preincubated with retinoids (100 nmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>) for 2 h before use. Each concentration had 4 wells. 100 U  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup> IL-2 was added to each well.



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RESULTS

LAK cell grow UK ceils wereuea  
 Tre (0-10µmol.L<sup>-1</sup>) or Ret ( 10µmol.L<sup>-1</sup>)  
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 -2 was stimulated by Tre or Ret at 10 1 nmol.  
 L<sup>-1</sup> m48ω96 h (Fig 1).

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 e 00 stimulatilω(Tab ■ P < 0.Đ) .

Tab 1 LAK cell miJ. ber after eatmmt wi 1L. 2 iin  
 combinat -mwi Tre or Ret. n 4 wells and repeateà

4 S.  
 bp < 0.05 cp < 0.01 vs control.

Tre or Ret/ nmol.L <sup>-1</sup>	U I I I I I I (10 <sup>7</sup> x cells.L <sup>-1</sup> )	
	Tre oin	Retinol
0	156	89 4
1	175 20	93 4
10	2 1δ <sup>b</sup>	154 6 <sup>c</sup>
1	22213 <sup>c</sup>	163:1:9 <sup>c</sup>
lam	154 16	73 3
10	121:t:]. i	72 3

cell cell Cytotoxicity of LAK cells against nsitional  
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 varying conc of bla er were pre or Ret. Tre or Ret  
 significantly !e ations of Tn  
 BIU-87 e deyo toxicity of LAKωHs agaiast  
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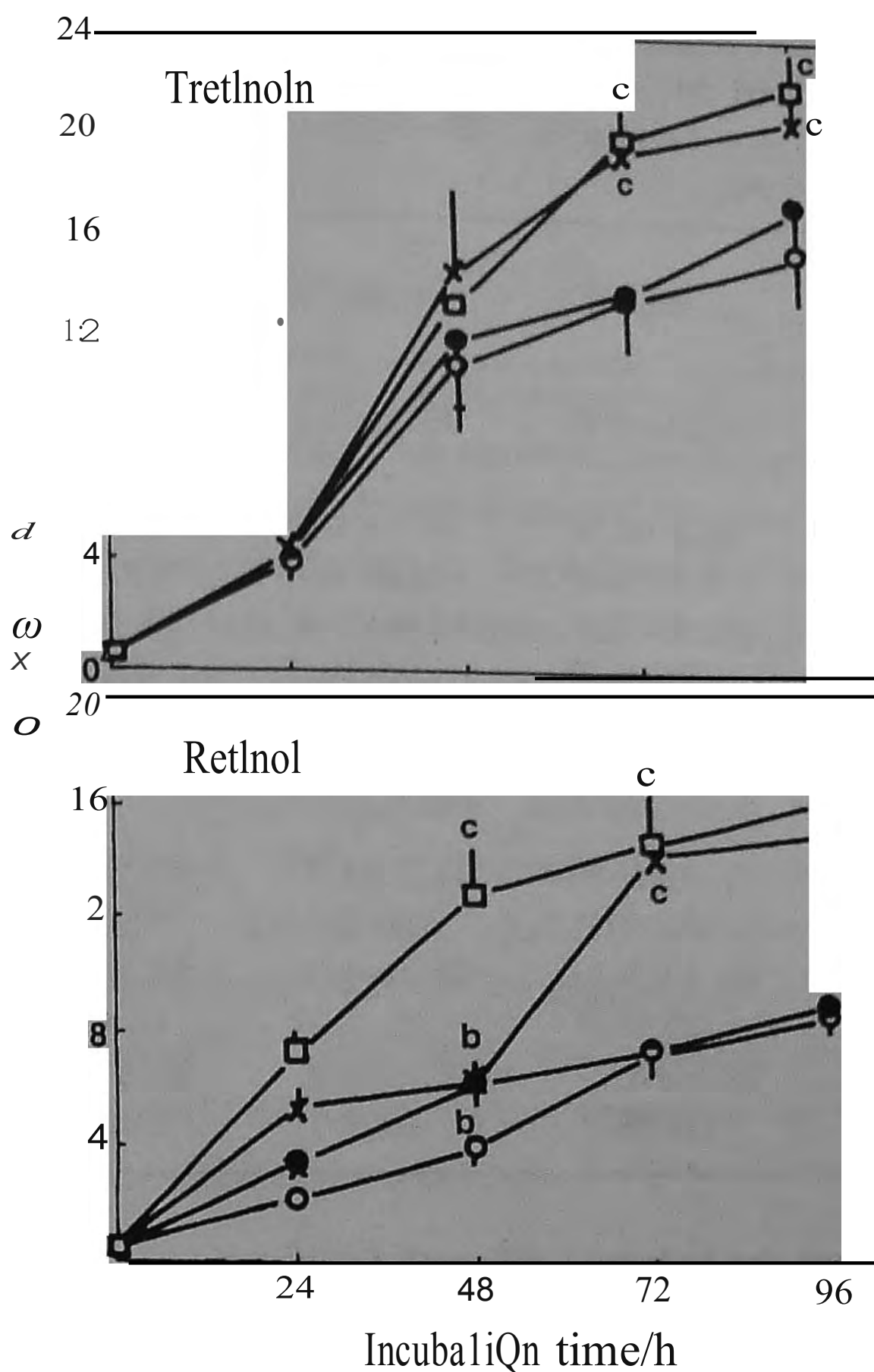


fig 1. E t of tre. 10in ør retinol on LAK cell  
 prnlif2 on duced by IL-2. The LAK cells were  
 atedwi 1L-2 1MU.L<sup>-1</sup> alone {O}. n .1+Tre or  
 llet at t " 110 < alld 1 : 1unol.L<sup>-1</sup> (J. n=  
 4 weDs\group and re d for 5 idde ø  
 experiments. bp < 0.05. cp < 0.01 vs JL.2 group.

BID-87 and ET (Tab 2) - le treatment. f  
 EJ B

87 or Btc wi Tre or Ret 1 nmol.L<sup>-1</sup> for 4 h did  
 nQt affect the A of MT f

DISCUSSION

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 deteoted m antigen-s nula: d' T lynphocytes and Tre  
 stimulated activated 1' nph esøproliferation in a  
 dose dependent manned7 .L2-induced UK cen  
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all the experiments were done in  
animal lymphocytes 80 the effects of  
Tretinoin Ret on the promotion of Mm LAK  
production of LAK cells induced by IL-2  
in the presence of Tretinoin was studied by  
the measurement of  $^{45}\text{Ca}$  release.  
The combination of IL-2 with  
Tretinoin or Ret has synergistic



?Zf?? 1322JJiZ\$1  
bp< cp<0.01

D.S. amtrol.

	BIU-7	EJ	BTC
Control	47.6 ± 3.8	48.3 ± 3.5	38.0 ± 4.4
Tretinoin			
1	52.2 ± 2.1 (110 %)a	53.1 ± 4.8 (110 %)a	82.4 ± 2.4 (216 %)C
10	56.4 ± 3.5 (118 %)b	57.4 ± 3.9 (119 %)b	89.4 ± 2.9 < 5 %)C
1	60.0 ± 2.9 (126 %)C	61.1 ± 2.6 (126 %)C	95.2 ± 3.7 (250 %)C
Retinol			
L	45.8 ± 2.4 (96 %)a	47.2 ± 1.3 (98 %)a	37.2 ± 1.6 (98.8)a
10	59.8 ± 4.1 (126 %)b	58.3 ± 4.9 (121 %)b	57.2 ± 3.7 (150 %)b
1	64.3 ± 5.7 (135 %)C	62.7 ± 4.8 (130 %)C	61.9 ± 3.4 (163 %)C

action on the human T/K cell proliferation.

Our study demonstrated that cytotoxicity of LAK cells against BIU-81 EJ cells or B' fC from the patients was enhanced by Tre or Ret. These results were compatible with the results of the experiments [8] that Tre augmented LAK cell activity in cocultures in a time-dependent manner in combination with IL-2. This indicates that retinoids have potential in adoptive immunotherapy of bladder cancer.

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73		30	)
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			(LAK)
			:
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			: Tre
Ret		LAK	